Continuation of Application No. <u>09/387,498</u>
Attorney's Docket No. <u>009683-373</u>
Page 2

## **REMARKS**

By this Preliminary Amendment, claim 27 has been added to round out the scope of protection being sought. Support for claim 27 may be found, for example, at page 93 of the present specification. Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Jugles H. Reason

3y: ≤

Douglas H. Pearson Registration No. 47,851

P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404 (703) 836-6620

Date: February 15, 2002